Allocation of funds to NER for rural development programmes

672. SHRI DWIJENDRANATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds allotted to NER during the last three years under different rural development programmes; and

(b) the number of persons likely to get employment as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) The details of funds allotted to NER including Sikkim during the last three years under different rural development programmes are given below:

Year	Funds allotted (Rs. in crores)
2001-2002	1246.50
2002-2003	1287.00
2003-2004	1397.01

(b) The Ministry of Rural Development has two employment oriented programmes namely Swaranjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) for self employment and Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) for wage-employment. Under SGSY, about 2.73 lakh swarozgaries have been assisted to take up economic activities during the three year period from 2001-2002 to 2003-2004. Under SGRY, the total number of mandays of employment generated during this period was 2483.99 lakhs.

Problem of cotton growers

673. SHRI DATTAMEGHE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that this cotton season is of bumper crop both at home and abroad and with such a bumper crop, cotton prices have crashed both at national as well as international level;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has received a memorandum regarding problems being faced by cotton growers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by Government for improving the conditions of cotton growers and ensuring their well-being?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) Domestic production of cotton during the current cotton year 2004-05 (October- September) is estimated at a record high of 213 lakh bales (170 kg. each) as against 177 lakh bales during last cotton year 2003-04. The world cotton production is also estimated higher at 24.14 million metric ton in 2004-05 as against 20.61 million metric ton. in 2003-04. Cotton prices during the current cotton year are ruling lower than the prices during the corresponding period last year both in domestic as well international market. The cotton prices during the last year 2003-04 were unusually high (around 25% above the prices in the preceding year 2002-03) because of low global production (20.61 Million MT) and higher consumption (21.34 Million MT). Therefore, lower prices during the current year as compared to last year are on expected line. Though, the production is estimated higher during the current year, consumption is also expected to go up in the wake of removal of quota restrictions.

(c) to (e) From time to time memorandum/representation are received on various issues relating to cotton such as.export/import of cotton, Minimum Support Price (MSP) etc. To protect the interest of cotton growes, Government of India has announced MSP of different varieties of kapas (seed cotton). Whenever the market price of kapas falls below the MSP level, the Cotton Corporation of India Ltd. (CCI) undertakes MSP operations and purchases kapas without any quantitative limit. During the current cotton year, the CCI has already undertaken MSP operations in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and Rajasthan and has purchased 9 32,175 quintal of kapas as on 01.12.2004.

Besides, the CCI has purchased 2,14,360 quintals of kapas under its commercial operations.

New Textile Policy

674. SHRI T.R. ZELIANG: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any new Textile Policy in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Number of Persons working in Textile Industry

675. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made estimates of number of persons working in various sectors" in textile industry at the beginning of Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the number of persons working in mill sector, powerloom sector and nandloom sector respectively;

(c) whether Government have ascertained the possibilities of increasing the number of persons working in these sectors; and

(d) if so, the possibility of the increase in percentage there has been identified separately?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Government has estimated that 34.42 million persons

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.